

DISTRICT COURT, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO 901 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Greeley, Colorado 80631 (970) 475-2400	DATE FILED: October 9, 2020 DATE FILED: October 9, 2020  ▲ Court Use Only ▲
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, Plaintiff  v.  STEVEN DANA PANKEY, Defendant	Case No. 2020CR1866  Division
<b>INDICTMENT</b>	

**CHARGES:**

**COUNT ONE: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE-AFTER DELIBERATION, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(a) (F1) (0011)**

**COUNT TWO: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE- FELONY MURDER, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(b) (F1) (0012)**

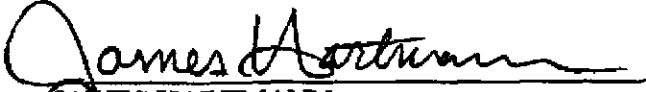
**COUNT THREE: SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING, 18-3-302(1),(4) (F3) (03023)**

**COUNT FOUR: CRIME OF VIOLENCE, 16-11-309 (SE) (36011)**

**COUNT FIVE: CRIME OF VIOLENCE, 16-11-309 (SE) (36011)**

The Grand Jury presents an Indictment and the same is ordered filed.

By the Court this 9 day of October, 2020.

  
JAMES HARTMANN  
Chief District Court Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

**COUNT ONE**

**MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE-AFTER DELIBERATION, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(a)  
(F1)**

On or between the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1984 and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1984, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, Steven Dana Pankey, after deliberation, and with the intent to cause the death of another person, caused the death of Jonelle Matthews.

**COUNT TWO**

**MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE-FELONY MURDER, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(b) (F1)**

On or between the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1984 and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1984, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, Steven Dana Pankey, acting alone or with one or more persons, committed or attempted to commit the crime of Second Degree Kidnapping, and in the course of, or in furtherance of, or in the immediate flight therefrom, the death of Jonelle Matthews, a person, other than one of the participants, was caused by anyone.

**COUNT THREE**

**SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING, C.R.S. 18-3-302(1),(4) (F3)**

On or between the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1984 and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1984, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, Steven Dana Pankey, knowingly, forcibly, or otherwise, seized and carried Jonelle Matthews from one place to another, without her consent and without lawful justification, and the kidnapping was accomplished by the use of a deadly weapon.

**COUNT FOUR**

**CRIME OF VIOLENCE, C.R.S. 16-11-309 (SE)**

On or between the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1984 and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1984, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, Steven Dana Pankey, used, or possessed and threatened the use of a deadly weapon, namely a firearm, during the commission of, or the immediate flight from, the offense of Murder in the First Degree—After Deliberation, as charged in Count One.

**COUNT FIVE**

**CRIME OF VIOLENCE, C.R.S. 16-11-309 (SE)**

On or between the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1984 and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1984, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, Steven Dana Pankey, used, or possessed and threatened the use of a deadly weapon, namely a firearm, during the commission of, or the immediate flight from, the offense of Second Degree Kidnapping, as charged in Count Three.

The offenses charged in Counts One through Five of the indictment were committed in the following manner:

1. Steven Dana Pankey took Jonelle Matthews from her family home, 320 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Court, without her consent and against her will on December 20, 1984 between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
2. Steven Dana Pankey was armed with a firearm.
3. Steven Dana Pankey shot Jonelle Matthews during the course of the kidnapping.
4. Steven Dana Pankey shot Jonelle Matthews intentionally and after deliberation.
5. Steven Dana Pankey watched school children walk home from Franklin Middle School where Jonelle Matthews went to school.
6. Steven Dana Pankey demonstrated intimate familiarity with the neighborhood where Jonelle Matthews lived when he stated that two police officers lived in the same block as Jonelle Matthews during an interview in March of 1985.
7. Steven Dana Pankey attended the Sunny View Church of the Nazarene until approximately June of 1978. The Matthews family joined this church in the summer of 1978.
8. Steven Dana Pankey knew of, and discussed, a crucial piece of evidence from the Matthews house withheld from the public by law enforcement; specifically, a rake was used to obliterate shoe impressions in the snow.
9. Upon completion of an autopsy by a forensic pathologist, Jonelle Matthews' cause of death was determined to be a gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was homicide.
10. Steven Dana Pankey owned a firearm in 1984.
11. Steven Dana Pankey intentionally inserted himself in the investigation many times over the years claiming to have knowledge of the crime which grew inconsistent and incriminating over time.
12. Steven Dana Pankey filed pleadings in many cases, both civil and criminal, that contained both direct and veiled statements about Jonelle Matthews.
13. In a 1999 pleading filed with the Idaho Supreme Court, Steven Dana Pankey argued if the Court ruled in certain fashion, "it is reasonable for the appellant to believe he would get the death penalty for revealing the location of Jonelle Matthews' body."
14. Steven Dana Pankey wrote, "without a deal, this case will never be solved."
15. Steven Dana Pankey repeatedly demanded immunity in exchange for information he claimed to possess about the murder of Jonelle Matthews.
16. Steven Dana Pankey asserted in an April, 2003 pro-se court pleading, "the family should be informed that Jennell (sic) died before crossing 10<sup>th</sup> st. (sic), and not to give the family hope."
17. Steven Dana Pankey stated in a letter dated August 15, 2013, "about a week after the fact I realized a blanket, or comforter, or quilt, also disappeared from the Matthews house...Some experiences are hard to forget. But I must realize justice isn't always served and move on."
18. Steven Dana Pankey sent an "alibi" document to law enforcement in 2013. The letter detailed plans for a family trip to California commencing on December 21, 1984, the morning after Jonelle Matthews went missing. The document contained false statements and superfluous details.

19. Angela Hicks described the family trip commencing two days after Jonelle Matthews' disappearance (December 22, 1984) as unexpected. She described that Steven Dana Pankey "dumped" their family dogs prior to this trip and they were never seen again. On the drive home she stated he uncharacteristically listened to the radio, searching for news accounts of Jonelle's disappearance. Upon arriving back in Greeley Steven Dana Pankey forced her to read the newspaper accounts about Jonelle to him. Angela Hicks stated when they finally arrived home on December 26, 1984 he immediately began digging in their yard, and approximately two days later a car on their property burst into flames, which Steven Dana Pankey then disposed of at a local salvage yard.
20. During a church service in early 1985, Steven Dana Pankey began muttering "false prophet" when the minister announced Jonelle Matthews would be found safe and returned home according to his then wife, Angela Hicks. He grew increasingly agitated and had to be removed from the church by parishioners.
21. In 2008 Angela Hicks heard Steven Dana Pankey say at his murdered son's funeral, "I hope God didn't allow this to happen because of Jonelle Matthews."
22. Steven Dana Pankey told Angela Hicks in 1999 that the Sun Valley Police refuses to believe he has information related to Jonelle's disappearance and they refuse to give him immunity in exchange for that evidence. Noticing Angela's confused expression Pankey remarked, "You don't think I could have hurt her, do you? She looked just like you."
23. Steven Dana Pankey repeatedly searched for information about Jonelle Matthews on the internet.
24. Subsequent to contact by Greeley Police detectives in 2019, Steven Dana Pankey attempted to delete all evidence of these searches from his electronic devices.
25. Steven Dana Pankey lived approximately two miles from Jonelle Matthews on December 20, 1984.
26. Steven Dana Pankey lived at 27965 Weld County Road 47.5 in 1980, approximately 10 miles due north of the recovery of Jonelle Matthews' body.

Of the 2020-2021 term of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, in the year 2020, the grand jurors chosen, selected, and sworn, in and for the County of Weld, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present as to Steven Dana Pankey.

**COUNT ONE (MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE- AFTER DELIBERATION)**

A TRUE BILL

NO TRUE BILL


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

**COUNT TWO (MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE- FELONY MURDER)**

A TRUE BILL

NO TRUE BILL


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

**COUNT THREE (SECOND DEGREE KIDNAPPING)**

A TRUE BILL

NO TRUE BILL


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

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Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

**COUNT FOUR (CRIME OF VIOLENCE)**

A TRUE BILL

NO TRUE BILL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

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Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

**COUNT FIVE (CRIME OF VIOLENCE)**

**A TRUE BILL**





Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

**NO TRUE BILL**

Foreperson or Alternate Foreperson

Michael J. Rourke  
District Attorney  
Nineteenth Judicial District

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Rourke, #28812  
District Attorney

I, , the Foreperson/Alternate Foreperson of the 2020-2021 Weld County Grand Jury, do hereby swear and affirm that each and every True Bill returned in this indictment by the 2020-2021 Weld County Grand Jury was arrived at after deliberation and with the assent and agreement to the existence of probable cause by at least nine grand jurors. The 2020-2021 Weld County Grand Jury further authorizes and instructs the Weld County District Attorney to return this indictment to open court with or without the presence of the foreperson.

  
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Foreperson/Alternate Foreperson